

To: Adm13McCarthy, Gina[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov]; Meiburg, Stan[Meiburg.Stan@epa.gov]; Fritz, Matthew[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov]
Cc: Rupp, Mark[Rupp.Mark@epa.gov]; Garbow, Avi[Garbow.Avi@epa.gov]; Distefano, Nichole[DiStefano.Nichole@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Vaught, Laura[Vaught.Laura@epa.gov]; Pieh, Lusenii[Pieh.Lusenii@epa.gov]; Ragland, Micah[Ragland.Micah@epa.gov]; Herckis, Arian[Herckis.Arian@epa.gov]; Thomas, Deb[thomas.debrah@epa.gov]
From: McGrath, Shaun
Sent: Sun 9/11/2016 3:12:35 PM
Subject: Weekend Report from R8

Weekend Report from R8

114 INFORMATION REQUESTS TO CONTINENTAL RESOURCES AND MARATHON OIL IN NORTH DAKOTA TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112(r): -- R8's Air and Toxics Enforcement issued two Clean Air Act (CAA) section 114 information requests to Marathon Oil and Continental Resources to determine their compliance with the general duty clause of the CAA section 112(r) following fatalities of workers at their tank batteries in North Dakota. The worker fatalities resulted from opening thief hatches of storage tanks to gauge the level of oil in the tanks or hauled produced oil from the tanks to the trucks. Opening the thief hatch of produced oil and water storage tanks releases hazardous substances such as hydrocarbon vapors, including benzene, butane, and propane. As a result, the workers were exposed to low oxygen levels and flammable conditions above and near the thief hatch. Under the CAA, owners and operators of storage tanks are required to reduce the risk of accidental release of hazardous substances and to identify hazards that may result from such releases. The requests seeks information to determine if before, during, and after these fatalities, the companies were in compliance with their duty to reduce those risks.

Resource Conservation and Recovery Program (RCRP) Proposed Remedy Decisions for the Solvay Silverbow Plant, Montana -- The EPA is responsible for implementing two administrative orders at the former Solvay Silver Bow Plant in Silver Bow, Montana (Facility). Under a June 2000 RCRA § 7003 Order, Solvay was required to take immediate interim actions to remove ignitable material from the Facility and prepare a Waste Plan for removal and disposal of the contents of the clarifier. The Waste Plan evaluated three treatment methods for the clarifier sludge. The proposed clarifier remedy is on-site recovery of the elemental phosphorus (P4) from the sludge as a usable product, using a Mud Still Process. Design, fabrication and construction of the mud still is expected to take two years and treatment of the sludge is estimated to take another five years. At the completion of treatment, the EPA proposes to designate the clarifier as a Corrective Action Management Unit (CAMU) for final disposal of the mud still residues as well as for any sludge that cannot be safely removed from the clarifier. The CAMU would be closed with an engineered cap, phosphine gas monitoring, and post closure care including long-term groundwater monitoring, cap maintenance and institutional controls.

In mid-August, the Montana Standard newspaper ran an OpEd piece critical of EPA in our work

at Solvay. The following week, the Standard published EPA's OpEd in response. The issue drew local interest in Butte, including from Sen. Tester's Office. Last week, we finalized public notices regarding our proposed path forward on the Solvay site in Montana (described above). We will begin the 45 day public comment period on Monday, Sept. 12th (through 10/26/16).

Original OpEd: http://mtstandard.com/news/opinion/editorial/different-site-same-refrain-butte-deserves-better/article_d0dd1397-21d8-5a22-a56f-76e521c968e7.html

EPA OpEd: http://mtstandard.com/news/opinion/guest/epa-standard-s-references-to-solvay-site-misleading/article_58facf7e-87f2-56b1-b946-f47322ac5dd5.html

NPL Announcements this Week -- Wednesday's NPL announcement adding the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company (MT) and Bonita Peak Mining District (CO) were very successful. The R8 team gave advance notification of Congressional, state, tribal, and local stakeholders prior to the public release, and I received positive feedback from some key leaders thanking EPA for this announcement. Additionally, we departed from the norm and included a quote in our Bonita Peak Mining District release from Martha Rudolph, director of environmental programs for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, in an effort to showcase our partnership with the State. The quote was widely used by media outlets and complemented our partnership efforts greatly. Overall, the majority of articles are balanced with a neutral tone. We are tracking articles in over 170 media organizations/publications, three Congressional press releases from Senator Tester (D-MT), Rep Tipton (R-CO) and Rep Zinke (R-MT), and we conducted over 13 media interviews including the Associated Press, Missoulian Newspaper, and Colorado Public Radio. Following are a few of the key articles.

<http://www.denverpost.com/2016/09/07/gold-king-animas-mining-sites-disaster-declaration/>

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2016/sep/08/colorado-town-on-verge-big-changes-amid-superfund/>

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/columbia-falls-aluminum-site-added-to-superfund-list/article_9dd06b01-66ad-52dd-aa85-3dfcaab557ef.html

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/09/07/colorado-gold-mine-is-one-of-the-epas-new-superfund-pollution-sites/?utm_term=.4136b88226c1

Sent from my iPad